

Simple Scrap Quilt

Press scraps if needed and sew 2 pieces together, right sides together with a straight seam. It is not essential that it be $\frac{1}{4}$ ", just not less, and it must be straight. Chain sew a bunch of these. Clip them apart and press the seam flat; trim the piece so that it has straight edges (avoid square corners).

Sew another scrap to a straight side, again chain sewing all the pieces this way. Trim the seam allowance to $\frac{1}{4}$ " or more if needed, press the piece flat. Clip apart the pieces, trim sides so they are straight.

Continue adding fabric until the piece can be trimmed down to an $8\frac{1}{2}$ " square [or whatever your favorite ruler measures]. $8\frac{1}{2}$ " will require 48 squares for a 54" X 72" quilt with 2" finished sashing, which can have borders added, if needed.

Another option: Sew 4 squares together into a square block [12 blocks of 4 squares needed for this size]. Add $2\frac{1}{2}$ " wide sashing (cut size) to 2 adjacent sides of each block. You can chain sew the border. Just cut apart to measure.

Lay the blocks of 4 squares out so that the sashing is always on the same corner (i.e. on the top and left). Add additional sashing on the blocks that are on the perimeter of the quilt where it is missing (i.e. on the bottom right). Sew the blocks and sashing together. Add borders as needed. Borders can also contain strips of pieced fabric. Add batting and backing to the quilt top, tie or machine quilt it and bind.

Tips: If you are making $8\frac{1}{2}$ " blocks and assuming you have printed these directions out on legal-size paper, you can use the width of the page as $8\frac{1}{2}$ " square sewing guide. When you lay the pieced fabric (before trimming) on the paper and it covers the width of the paper, it is big enough. If you keep this guide by the sewing machine, you can easily see what sides need more fabric. Trim the fabric with a ruler and rotary cutter. For other size blocks, use a ruler, or some other appropriate guide.

This pattern works for any size squares or width of sashing, any size quilt. Just adjust the number of blocks needed. This scrappy quilt looks great laid out 4 squares with sashing (refer to "Another Option"), but that is not necessary either. You can skip the sashing all together, or other combinations of squares can be sashed.

Have fun, and use up some of those scraps. However be warned that the scrap box does seem to grow.